

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

4. (currently amended) Apparatus for binding a supply of wire having a predetermined diameter around bales ~~comprising a wire magazine for supplying said wire,~~ a feeder for feeding and stretching said ~~supplied~~ supply of wire, a guide for guiding said wire from said feeder around said bale, a wire cutter and twister for cutting said wire and twisting together the ends of said cut wire, and a take-up unit for taking up a loop in said wire obtained upon said stretching of said wire around said bale, said take-up unit comprising a longitudinally extending wire take-up space comprising a pair of long sides formed by a pair of walls and a pair of short sides, said pair of walls being separated by a first predetermined distance adapted to accept said wire having said predetermined diameter but not sufficient to accept a double strand of said wire, said pair of short sides separated by a second predetermined distance adapted to accept a loop of said wire without being folded, said longitudinally extending wire take-up space at one of said pair of short sides comprising a wire guide space which is wider than said first predetermined distance and formed by grooves in at least one of said pair of walls.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said wire take-up space has a substantially rectangular shape.

6. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said bales comprise pulp bales.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said wire magazine comprises a coil of said wire.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said wire take-up space has a predetermined length sufficiently long to accommodate a plurality of successive wire loops therein.

9. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said grooves in at least one of said pair of walls has a width approximately equal to said predetermined diameter and a depth of from about 0.5 to 1.5 times said predetermined diameter.